

Day 1: Gransherad to Hovin

Attention: You have 2 alternative for the first part to Sandvika, before you are going forward to Hovin.

1.: go from Gransherad to Tinnoset and take the boat crossing Lake Tinnsjø to Sandvika

Then it is necessary to book the boat crossing in advance!!!!

Please take into account that the boat crossing depends on water level and weather.

The contact details are: Jon Ivar Finnekåsa Tel.: 911 37 805 or by e-mail:

ji-finne@online.no

2.: you start by the "Rauadammen" and go to Sandvika

Alt.1. Gransherad to Sandvika including boat over lake Tinnsjø

Length from Gransherad to Tinnoset: 5,13 km/ up: 80 m/down: 70 m

Travel conditions: Gravel road, good forest paths and a short stony/ sharp piece that requires sure-footedness

The start of your pilgrimage is the church of Gransherad.

From the church you go down to the main road and follow it to the right over the bridge. Just behind the bridge you turn left into the "limoen" path. He first follows him through a small residential area. Behind the residential area, the path crosses into a forest path, which you continue straight into the forest. The old tracks of the "Tinnosbanen" always lie to your right and the lake to your left.

After a good 2 km the forest path leads you in a right bend over the tracks and then in a slight left turn slowly uphill.

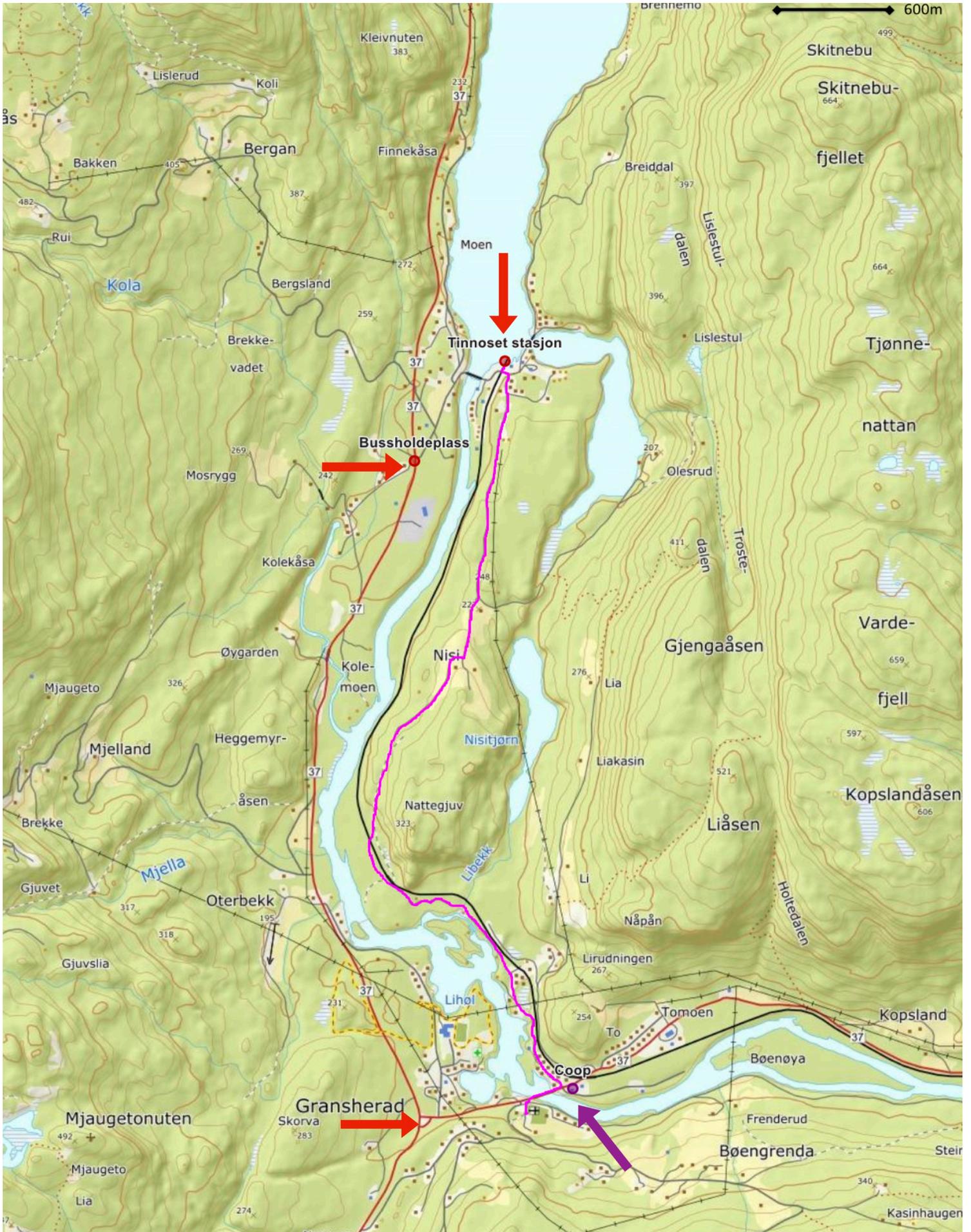
Here the path soon becomes very stony and uneven and a short stretch also a bit steep.

With the farm "Nisi" in view, the path then again becomes a proper "route" and leads you in an arch to the left around the courtyard. At the large red barn on your right, turn left onto the dirt road leading downhill.

On this gravel road, keep always to the left, first through open countryside and then through woods, down the mountain towards Tinnsjø.

At the bottom you turn left over the tracks and see the ferry dock of Storegut to your right on the lake.

In Tinnoset the boat guides (which you ordered in advance) are waiting in the harbour to take you over the Tinnsjø to Sandvika.



Alt.2: Rauadammen to Sandvika

Length: 4,14 km/up: 100 m/Hinab: 240 m

Travel conditions: Narrow, sometimes very steep and impassable paths

Normally, your pilgrimage starts in Gransherad and takes you first to Tinnoset and then by boat over Tinnsjø to Sandvika before continuing to Hovin.

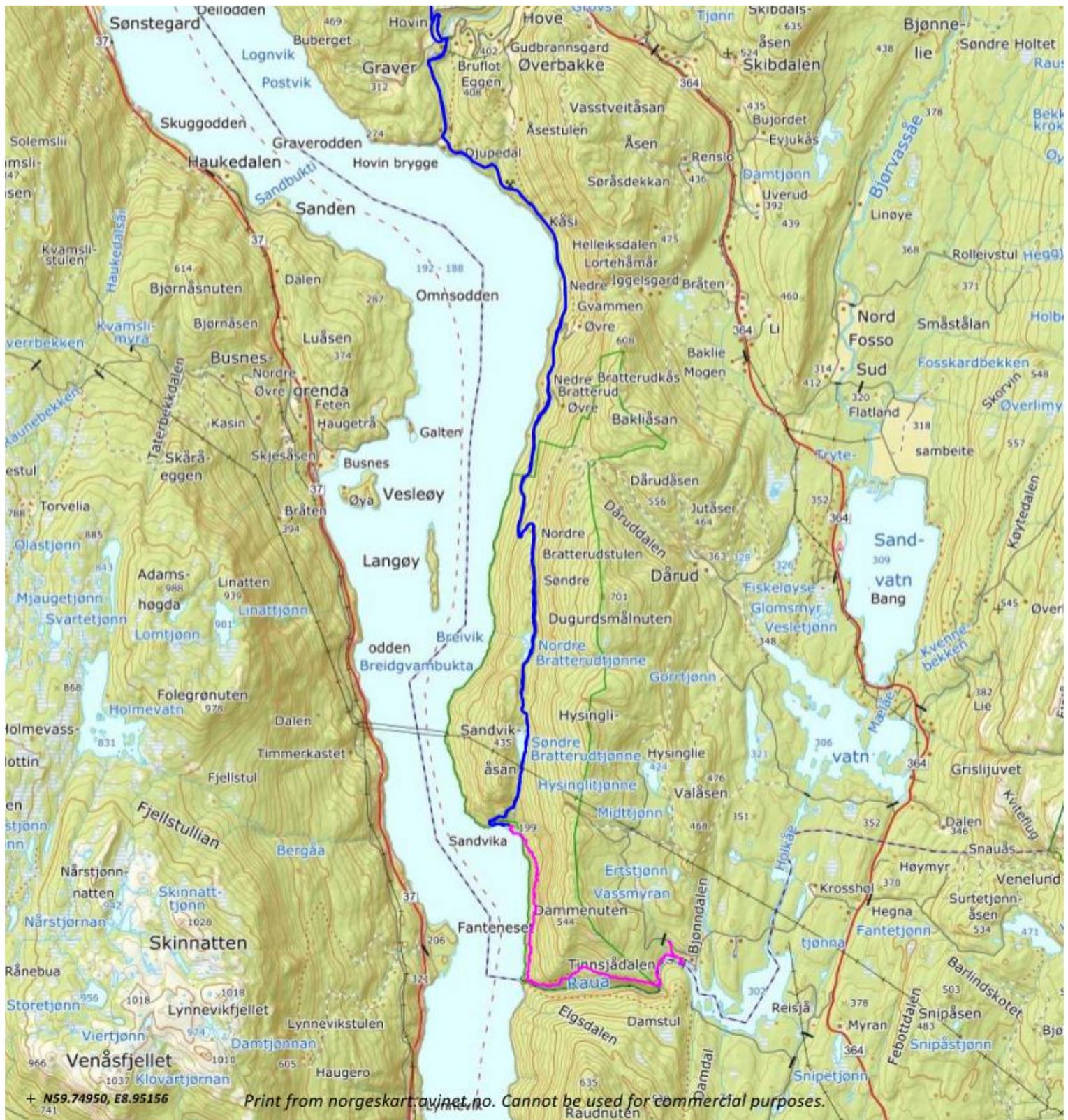
Unfortunately, a boat overpass is not always possible due to weather and so we would like to introduce you here an alternative.

From Tinnoset you go to the church in Gransherad and from there take a taxi (Hovin Taxi 35099243 – eller Tinn taxi (90967777) to the starting point for this hike.

It begins above the Rauadammen. The Raua River is the border between the municipalities of Tinn and Notodden. The river used to be used for flowing tree trunks and the path we use to get to Sandvika was made accessible and signposted again in view of this. On the Rauadamm and the Raua Tunnel, you can experience how the wood was previously loosed. Unfortunately, the boards are only written in Norwegian, but the river is in any case an imposing experience.

From the turning point above the dam a sign shows a path down towards "Fløyteminne" (remember of the rafts). In the valley you find further signs that lead you to the right to the Rauadamm and to the left towards Rauatunnel and on to Sandvika. Like to buy the small detour to dam. The river was dammed up extra and then the tree trunks flowed through the smaller left opening. Then continue towards Rauatunnel/Sandvika along the river. A little later you know a sign to the left to the tunnel and straight on to Sandvika. Take the path to the river and continue to the tunnel. The tree trunks were flown here past the waterfall through a tunnel to protect them from great damage.

From the viewing area above the tunnel you can walk uphill a small path that takes you back to the main path to Sandvika. (you turn left there) Follow the path far above the river to almost down to the mouth of the Tinnsjø. Shortly before, you will be led to Sandvika at a fork to the right. The path is now even narrower and one has to be very careful in some places, but it is well marked with red dots and in spite of everything well recognizable. Enjoy between the view of the Tinnsjø, which you walk along at a certain height. The path along the lake is exhausting to walk, but also a special experience and you have arrived in Sandvika a break with beautiful views over the lake deserved.



pink er veien fra Rauadammen til Sandvika

blå veien videre til Hovin church

Part 2: Sandvika til Hovin church

Length: 10,2 km/up: 350 m/down: 260 m

Nature of the path: Gravel paths, good forest paths and steep, uneven paths, safety required

Sandvika, is a farm complex surrounded by forest directly on Tinnsjø and about 10 km away from Hovin. According to the 1900 census, there were 11 people living in Sandvika. The village was inhabited until about 1920/30 all year round and then abandoned.

It is one of the typical places in Norway, which were mainly accessible from the water. Through the forest it has only been accessible via the old "Kjerrevei" (carriage path), which you will walk. Today, the main house is used only in autumn during the hunting season and the rest around it decays.

In the summer of 2012, a stone axe from the Stone Age was found on the beach, that is, this place was settled very early. Access to water was previously important as a transport route and food source. From the beach you keep on a grass path to the left of the water until you meet a stony, steeply uphill path into the forest. This path is also not signposted because it is easy to follow.

The first about 600 m is now rocky and steep uphill. The loosely piled stones make the way a bit difficult to walk and you should be very careful. After this first steep climb we quickly better the path through the nature reserve.

You follow a small stream to your left uphill until you come to a small lake. Here you can admire the work of the beavers who have dammed the lake. Follow the grassy forest path up until you reach a turning point at the highest point after about 2 km.

The forest path is now wider and even more flat and runs for about a kilometre along the height. Now it goes slowly and comfortably downhill again and you get to see the Tinnsjø, which lies to the left below you again.

You continue along the main road in two bends, first to the left and then to the right, downhill until you come back to a slightly larger gravel turntable this time. On the other side of the square you see the only sign on this path and follow the dirt road straight ahead. The path always leads you along the Tinnjøs (on your left) towards Hovin. On the way you pass first the larger "Bratterud Hof" (which

was already in the 17th century) and a little later the “Nedre Gvammen”.

About 2 km behind the “Bratterud Gård” you first see a wooden warehouse on the left side of the road and behind it the remains of the old laundry and barracks that belonged to Tinnsjø Kupfermiene. The entrance to the copper mine is opposite the forest. The entrance is open, but usually you get wet feet there and you shouldn't go in otherwise, because it's too dangerous.

After 8.5 km you reach a barrier that is normally closed. So you have to climb a little bit in being able to walk over a bridge. It is the little river Skirva that you cross and which you will now follow towards the church. First you go a bit uphill until you meet the main road of the village. To the left you can go down to the former dock of Hovin, to the church turn right at the crossroads and follow the river (on your right) uphill. After a kilometre, you meet a T-cross again. The sign to the church leads you up the road to the left. But you can also take the shortcut over the meadow, which reaches to the church. You can see the church right after the crossroads. If you follow the road to the right again uphill you come up to the country road at which also the grocery store of the village is located.

Day 2: Hovin to Austbygde

Length: 23,6 km/up: 570 m/down: 660 m

Travel conditions: Gravel road, good grass and forest paths (sometimes strongly rooted), in between slightly washed out and rocky paths, little busy roads

From the church in Hovin you walk up the road to the road. There you turn left and see very quickly the grass road on the left side of the road. This grass path leads you, slowly ascending past a farm and then crosses into a beautiful forest path. Sometimes cows graze here and it is possible that you have to pass an electric fence, which is not permanent. (You can touch the cable on the handle and lift the hook out of the loop, please close it well afterwards. It is a nice piece of the old road where you can still see the big edgestones to the valley side.

The path leads you over streams and steadily ascending through the forest and later goes back into a grass path. Behind a right-hand curve you see another courtyard on your right. Shortly after, you encounter a clearing that you cross along the right side. A little later you reach the new gravel road, which today connects the farms with each other. The gravel road (Urdalsvegen) comes up the mountain from the right and you follow it straight from the mountain. (the path to the left only leads to another farm)

You follow the gravel road for about 1 km before turning right at a dead end sign/turning place onto the old Hovinweg.

You follow this path (now described as “kjerrevei – Karrenweg”) along, usually evenly but also a bit steeper, uphill through the forest. Always keep to the left on the main road. Having arrived at the top of the hill, look around consciously. It is a very rocky hill and it is said that it was in the 2nd century. World War exactly here has given a barricade of the locals against the invasion of the Germans. The German soldiers came the same way as you and the Norwegians lay behind the rocks. On this day 1940 the Germans failed to advance towards Rjukan and Vemork. One of the Norwegian soldiers wrote down these events and his further experiences in the war very impressively. Then you follow the Kjerrevei, now down through forest and partly more open landscape with rocks, moss, heath and berries. After 2.5 km you reach a lake that lies to your left. You always follow the path directly along the lake. A piece of the trail leads through boggy landscape and the path can be very humid, depending on the season and weather.

A little later, the path leads you over an old bridge and soon crosses into a track, which you follow straight ahead. The road leads you past some lakes and huts until you reach a barrier. Behind the barrier, the path leads past a quarry and meets another gravel road that comes from the right, leading down from the new Hovin Heia. Turn left and follow the dirt road. Passing a yard, you turn right to the old Heie school. Behind the old school there is still a functioning Plumpsklo in an outside building.

After this little break you go back to the gravel path and follow it downhill to the right until you see in a left turn (after 200 m) straight out of a grass path. It follows this grass path steadily upwards, always straight out through the forest. After about 1 km it meets a gravel road that leads to the left to a farm. Follow the dirt road straight out of the mountain and always keep on the main road, from which from time to time go to different huts. After about 2 km you reach the new “Hovin Heia”, the main road between Kongsberg and Tinn.

Turn left and follow the road for about 1 km. Pay attention to the traffic, on the somewhat confusing and curvy road. In an S-curve you turn right into a gravel path, which is usually closed with a barrier. So you can climb a little again. Right in front of you, in a bend, you'll see a bank standing. You follow the gravel path into a hut area called “Hafoss vel” and is located directly above a lake. The dirt road follows the lake on your left. At the lake there are some nice resting places and benches for a break. After about a km the gravel road leads to the right of the lake. Here you leave the gravel road and follow the path, which continues straight along the shore. When the path leaves the hut area, it

crosses a small piece of moor. There you have laid some wooden beams and pallets, so that it is still dry foot to pass. After the bog area, the path takes you a short stretch uphill back into the forest.

Now a beautiful, rooted forest path follows in constant easy up and down and over some old simple bridges through the forest. After about 3 km on this beautiful forest path you bump into a gravel area with a barbecue after a short steeper descent. You cross the square at the left edge and bump directly onto a gravel road. On the opposite side of the gravel road, continue on the old "Hovin Heia". At the beginning it goes on a, usually very wet, piece over grass, before it goes again a short stretch steep and stony uphill. Arriving at the altitude, however, the path crosses again into a beautiful forest path, which leads you slowly but safely downhill towards Austbygde. The path is now partly very washed out and stony and you can well imagine that the farmers deserved a supper almost 100 years ago with the pulling up of cars. After about 1 km lies on the right side one of the old farms, which then still lie on the "Hauptstrasse" and today somewhere in nowhere. About 200 m further is another farm, hidden behind trees, to your right and a sign points you to the left, following a narrow trampling path up to a beautiful viewpoint. Up here is a small "rock sea", from which it has a beautiful view over the Tinnsjø to Mæl (to the left), as well as Atrå and Austbygde (on the right)

Back on the forest path it is now only a few hundred meters downhill, before the forest path once again meets the new "Hovin Heia".

Here you cross the main road and follow the directly opposite path down into the village, crossing the new road once.

Down in the village you'll find the Austbygde Bakeri & Café. You keep to the right over the bridge and follow the main road towards Atrå. On the left side there are only "Austbygde Interior", then the KIWI (Food Market) and behind it the bank. You cross the parking lot and walk directly behind a small path down to "Øyan", a small leisure area with barbecues by the river. You cross a bridge and turn right behind it, cross another bridge and follow the path through the forest. After about 1 km you turn right towards another bridge from the path. Behind the bridge is the site of the campsite.

towards the Austbygde church



Day 3: Circular to Austbygde church

Length: 15,8 km/up: 440 m/down: 440 m

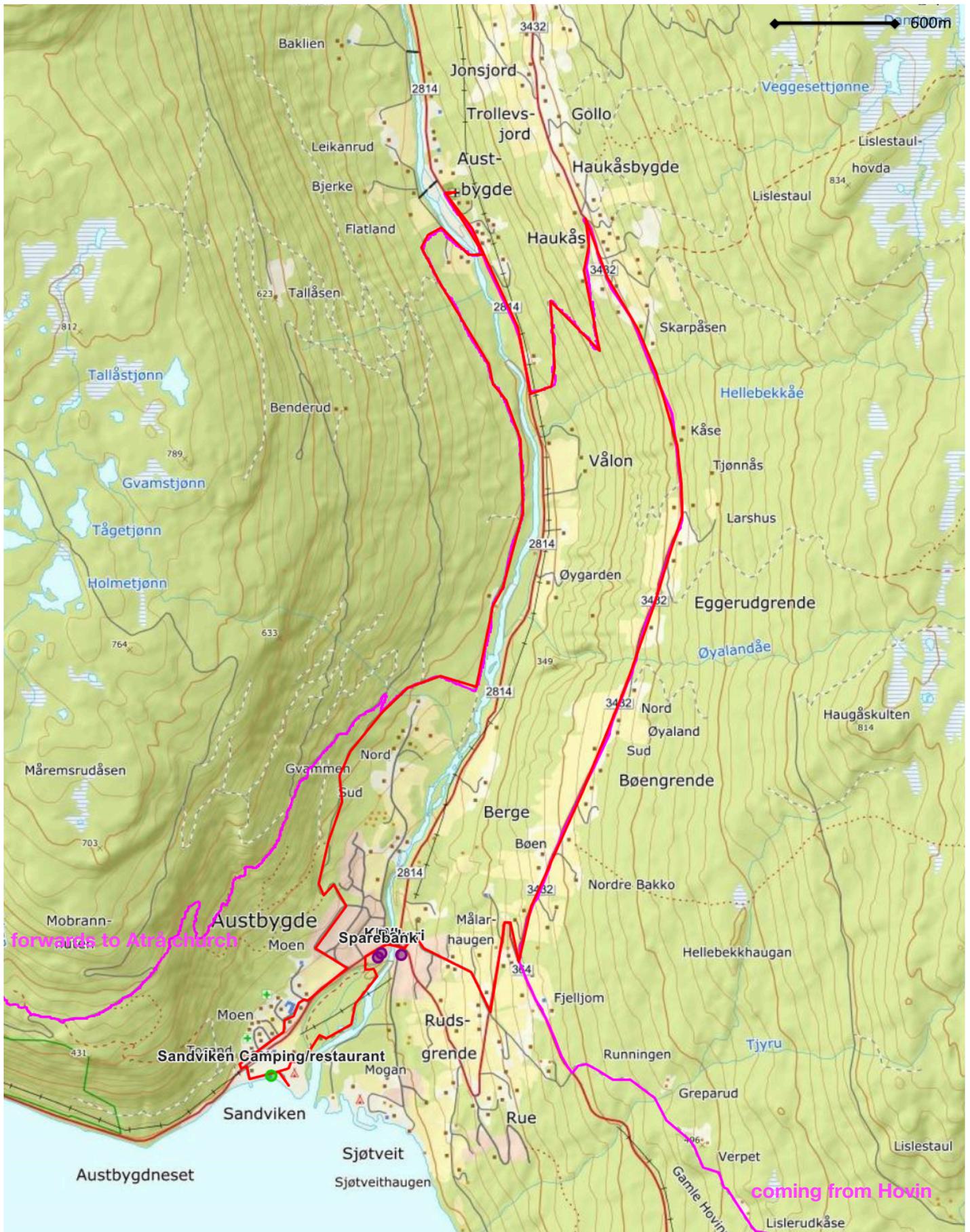
little busy roads and good forest paths

The route is marked red on the map, the pilgrimage route from Hovin and further to Atrå is marked pink.

We connected the pilgrimage to the church to Austbygde with the campsite for a round trip. For this purpose, you will go back to the centre of Austbygde from the campsite through the “Øyan” leisure area. At the bakery you turn into the second, slightly smaller street to the left (Maurubrekka) and follow it uphill until you meet the new road. Turn left there and follow the road uphill, around a turn to the right, until you reach a sign that leads you further uphill in a left turn towards “Veggli”. This road is not very busy and it is now about 3.5 km. Half way is the Eldhus, a stone oven bakery, which is usually open Friday and Saturday afternoon. The road leads you steadily uphill towards Tessungdalen and offers a beautiful view of Austbygde (back) and forward towards Tessungdalen and to the church of Austbygde, which lies down in the valley. Just before you leave the road to the left you arrive at a farm past the holiday guests “Haukaas gårdsferie”. You leave the road and turn (in a left turn) onto a gravel road that leads you below, parallel to the road at two farms. Behind the farms it passes into a forest path and leads you into two bends, down to the valley. There you meet the road from Austbygde to Tessungdalen and continue to Imingfjell. Turn right and follow the last kilometre along the road to the church of Austbygde.

If you can already see the church, you will pass the bridge, over the Austbygdåe (to the left), where your path continues (now towards Atrå Church). You cross the bridge and walk along a gravel path towards the church before a sign to the left indicates a forest path. Follow this path uphill to a clearing, from where the path turns into a good forest path. The path now leads you along the Austbygdåe stream to your left slightly downhill towards Austbygde. After about 3 km, at a crossroads, a sign shows you up the forest path to the right. You meet a little later on a wider gravel road. (Here tomorrow you will continue the path to the right uphill towards Atrå Church) Today you turn left onto the gravel road and follow it always downhill until you meet the road of a residential area. Pay attention to the red knitting marks. The road comes straight up from the town centre. Here you have the choice to go down to the village centre (you follow the road, which makes a left turn first one on the right and turns right at the T-cross. You come out at the bus stop opposite the KIWI market and the bakery) or you turn right. Follow the road through a residential area. It later leads in a left turn down to the main road of the village. There a bike and footpath leads to the retirement home to the right.

At the end of the footpath, turn right, before the parking lot turn left again. You pass below the old people's home (large yellow building) and bump into a street a little later. You follow to the left and now walk above the main road towards the campsite, which you can see soon. At the end of the small road you only need to cross the main road.



Day 4: Austbygde to Atrå church

Length: 11,8 km/up: 280 m/down: 250 m

Nature of the path: Gravel roads, good forest paths, old forest and church paths, some very steep and uneven up with great view over the lake Tinnsjø

Go again through the Øyan leisure area towards the centre, past the KIWI market and then turn left behind the Dølehalle/bus stop. Turn left again into the next street and follow Strasser uphill. She makes a turn to the right first and then to the left before passing the football field. Behind the football field she makes a left turn again. There you go straight out, on a gravel road towards the forest. You follow the gravel path, (red knitting marker) which first makes a left turn, crosses a square and then leads you up into the forest in a right bend. You follow the path until you come back to the pilgrimage. You follow the path a short distance further uphill before turning left on a forest path in a pointed turn.

You follow the forest path slightly uphill until you hit a bench in a right turn. Here you do not follow the main path, but walk straight out past the bank on a narrower path further steadily uphill. Between the trees you can now enjoy a beautiful view of the Tinnsjø. A little later you will pass a simple resting place with beautiful views down to Sandviken campsite and over the Tinnsjø. Seat boards leaning on a tree that together with the stones become beautiful seats. After a short rest, the forest path passes more and more into a steep and stony path, which takes you up to the ridge via two bends. On the ridge, directly in a bend, you come across a wide track. You follow this path straight and slightly sloping about 1 km, past the sign to Sandviken Camping (left) and to "Åsral" (a former farm right). Shortly afterwards a sign with the inscription ("Gamal kyrkjeveg"/"old church path") follows. Follow this sign first to the right and shortly afterwards to the left into a forest path. From now on you will be on one of the old church paths. The inhabitants of the farms used it until the construction of the church in Austbygde in 1888 for their way to the church in Atrå.

Again and again you can still very well recognise the old retaining walls and imagine how much work the laying of these paths has done.

This old path leads you over a bridge, through a forest landscape with white moss, heath, lingonberries and blueberries.

After a while you come back to the road, which you follow only a few meters before another sign leads you down to the left again on the old church path. A little later you meet the track again and follow it a few meters before you are led up to the old path this time to the right. Next time you hit the road, follow it until you meet the road between Austbygde and Atrå in the valley.

(unfortunately, the subsequent landowners do not want us to follow the church path further)

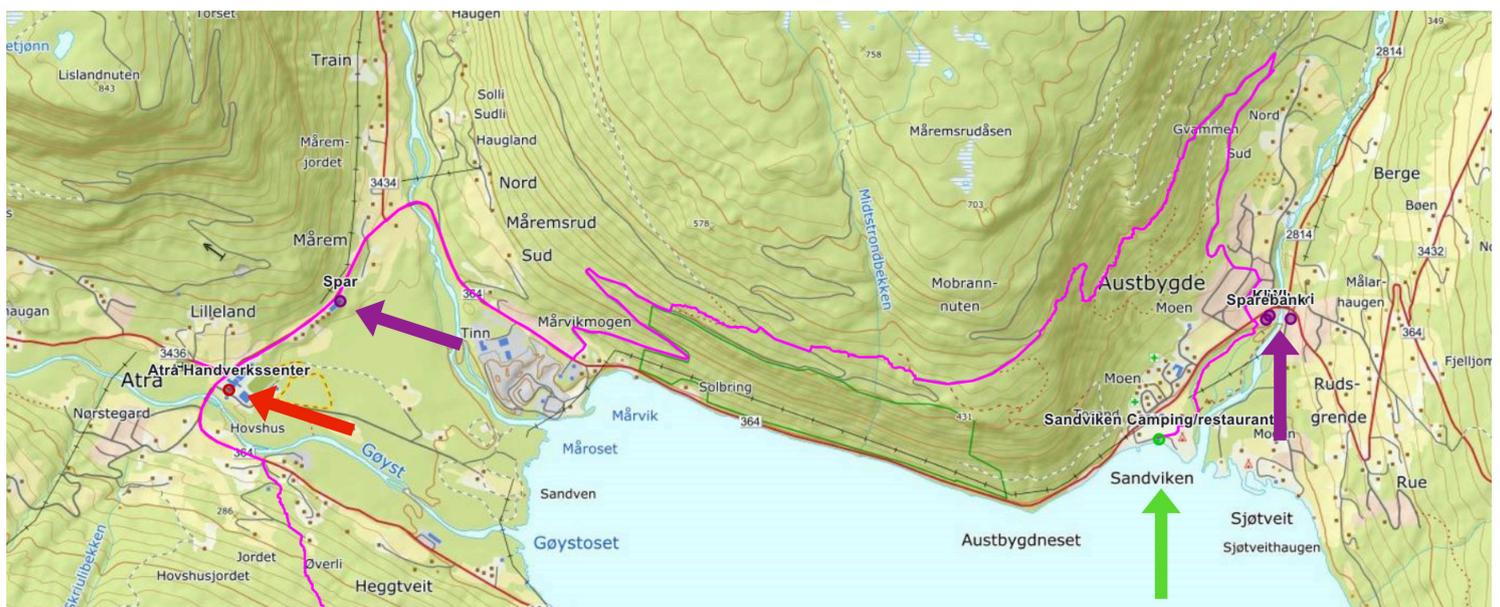
At the country road you turn right and follow the road to Atrå. It is now about 3 km to the church.

When you cross the bridge over the “Kaddehøl” you will find the “Mårum Höfe” on the left and right of the road. Pay attention to the old “Stabbur” in passing. These food warehouses are typical of Norway and you will often find it on your way. These warehouses are blockhouses built on posts that survive on the 2nd floor (the storage room). You can see that the beams upwards and outwards are getting longer and longer to carry the storage space. These beams are rounded upwards so that the mice can't walk upwards. Here in Atrå you can see one directly behind the right turn road and two more hidden behind trees on the left side of the road (2. Farm) are located. For example, these staff come from a time around 1350.

On the left side of the street follow the Spar Markt, then the old and the new school of Atrå and behind the school the very interesting handicraft centre of Atrå, where you can admire and buy all kinds of handicrafts. (You will find a more detailed description following the description of this stage)

On the right side of the road you can see the main church of the parish of Tinn. There was first, since the end of the 11st century, a stave church consecrated by Bishop Ragnar in 1180. In 1836, the present church was consecrated and the old stave church was demolished. The old stave church is one of the oldest churches in Tinn.

In Atrå there are a number of possibilities for a leisurely lunch break. Resting places can be found in front of the Spar Markt (which also offers a small warm counter), in front of the handicraft centre and slightly elevated above the street in front of the church.



Day 5: Atrå church to Mæl church

Length: 12,5 km/up: 630 m/down: 660 m

Nature of the path: Gravel roads, good forest paths, old forest paths, at the end 4 km partly steep, rocky path down in the forest (partly hardly a path) – good shoes required

From the church in Atrå, follow an old path along the cemetery wall down to the road and turn right there. Follow the road first over a bridge and then for about 500 m in the direction of Rjukan before turning right at a sign and shortly afterwards to the left again, on a gravel road.

The gravel road leads you uphill. In a pointed turn, you leave him and follow a grass road straight ahead. Shortly afterwards you will pass an old Stabbur again, while the path continues on a steady ascent. A sign indicates a “carry path” which you follow further upwards. A little later a forest path runs parallel to your path. You remain on your path, which is endowed with beautiful edge stones. You can still see here very well how the paths were built and secured earlier. When the “carriage path” turns into a wide forest path, you will see a sign leading you to the left. Follow the forest path uphill, but don't forget to turn around from time to time to enjoy the beautiful view back to Atrå and over to Austbygde.

When the forest road hits a wide road, a sign indicates that you have already gone uphill for 3 km (in real terms already 4 km) and that you are still 7 km to Mæl in front of you. The track soon passes into a relatively new connecting route.

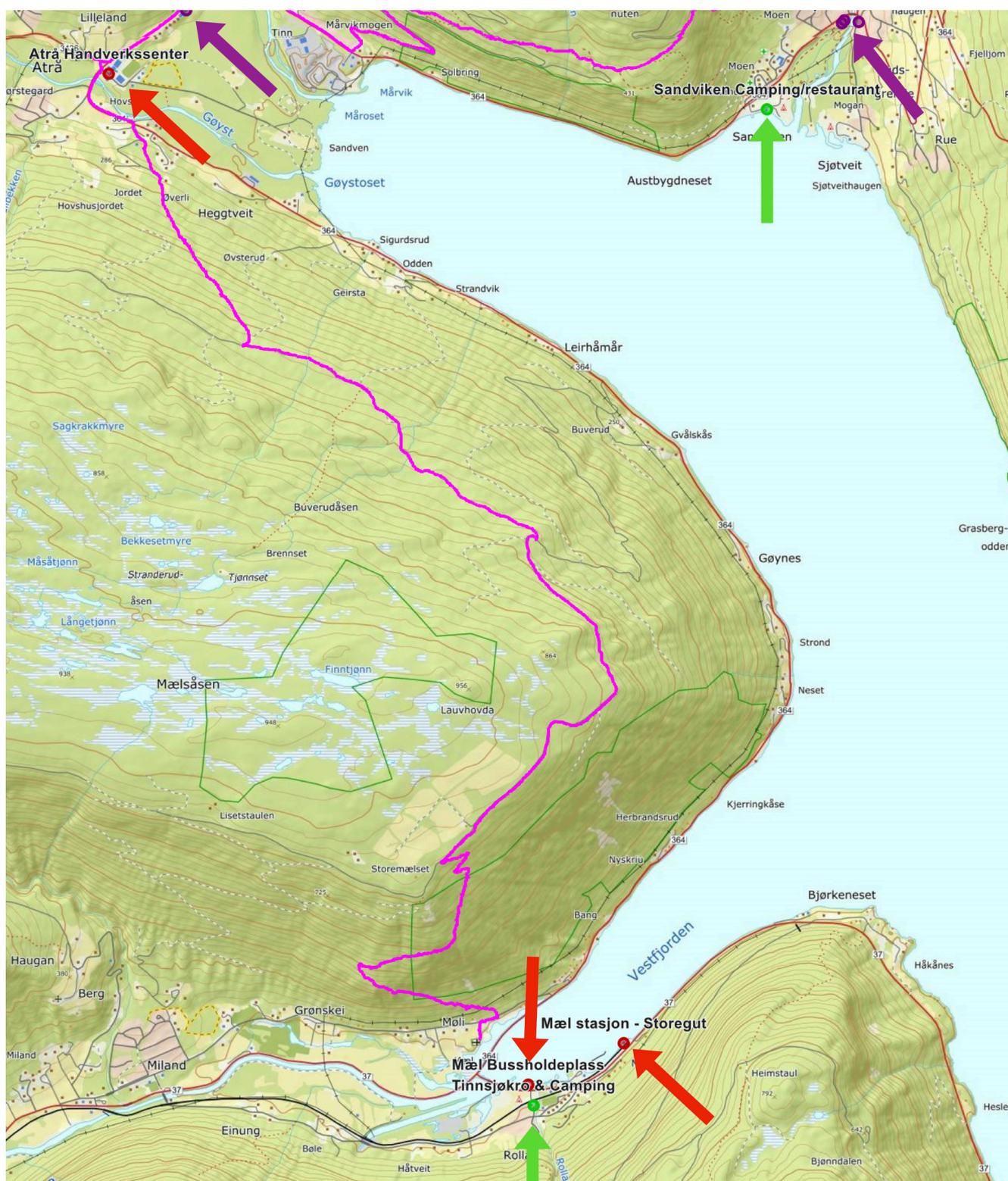
This route was built for the “Tinnløypa” (ski trail in winter), which runs from Gvepseborg to Atrå and is also part of the “Telemarkhelten” bicycle race. At the end of the connecting path you meet a gravel road again and the sign points you to the right, a last piece, up the mountain. At the top of the ridge, through the trees, you can enjoy beautiful views of the Tinnsjø. After 8 km you have now reached the highest point of this stage with 850 m. For a well-deserved break, after the long climb, we have set up a simple resting place with a wonderful view over the Tinnsjø and from here we go downhill.

On the ridge you now pass the “Menkhus”, this is a “Fellesbeite”. These are pastures that share several farms from the valley for their animals in summer. You follow the path, now with a view of the Gaustatoppen and slowly descending until you, on the right, pass a barn. A little further down you see a sign that leads you to the left on a narrow path into the forest. From here the path is marked with red color on the trees. There are now 4 km, partly steep descent in front of you. The path that follows through the forest requires sure-footedness and possibly a little talent for climbing. It is always possible to tilt the trees over these old paths or grow faster than we can cut them. The path partly runs almost through wilderness, where you have to stick attentively to the red markings. The further you come down, the better it becomes and runs

along the ancient paths on which the farmers led their animals up to the “Fellesbeite”.

Above the church you come to a beautiful viewpoint, called Håmaren, from which you can enjoy a beautiful view into Vestfjorddalen and thus towards Dal and down to the church and in the background the ship dock of Mæl. The day’s target is thus within reach. There are still a few hundred meters of path down and two gates before you get down to a road. You follow to the right and soon you see the church of Mæl on the left, above the Måna.

(You will reach the campsite as you see the church again on the road and turn right downhill towards the country road between Atrå and Rjukan. At the road you turn right again and at the crossroads to Notodden turn left, then you will see the campsite on the right)



Day 6: Mæl church to Dal church

Length: 10,3 km/up: 200 m/down: 160 m

Nature of the path: Road, gravel path, good forest path and some forest path

From the church in Mæl you go up to the road and turn left. You follow this little busy road, past some farms and a golf course, towards Miland. After 2.5 km you will see the school of Miland on the left side of the road, a large yellow, older building complex. In front of the school, turn into a footpath that leads you down to the main road from Mæl to Rjukan and a bus stop.

There you cross the busy road, then the river Måna and then the railway tracks.

When you stay at Tinnsjø campsite, you pass the reception, through an opening in a metal fence and along a gravel path that takes you to a paved road after a few meters. To the left of you is a bridge and you turn right here. You first follow this road directly along the rails and later past some farms until you see a larger bridge on your right. (From there comes the path that you would go from the church). This part is marked with the painted church marks.

Here you will meet the "Månasti". It is a new gravel road that leads almost all the time to the course of the river Måna in the middle of the valley through open and sunny terrain and offers a magnificent view over long distances beyond the 1883m high Gaustatoppen. The view of the majestic Gaustatoppen will accompany you to the church in Dal.

The last track leads through a residential area, past the "Brautschleier waterfall" and shortly before the church at the barrier of the Måna, where the gravel road will guide you up to the left around the dam. Continue on the "Månastien" which now leads as a bike path to the left of the Måna to Rjukan Zentrum.

When you reach the crossroads up to Gaustatoppen/Gaustablikk, you will see the church of Dal on the right side of Måna.

If you have started your pilgrimage around the Tinnsjø in Gransherad, as recommended by us, you have now arrived at the last of our six white churches and thus at your destination.

